

REMARKS

The application includes claims 1-5 in which claims 1-5 are subject to a restriction requirement. Claims 1-4 are rejected. With this paper, claim 1 is amended and claim 5 is withdrawn from consideration. The application now includes 4 claims.

Restriction/Election

Application affirms the election of claims 1-4 for prosecution and withdraws claim 5 from consideration.

Claim Rejections under 35 USC §112

Claims 1-4 are rejected under 35 USC §112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

With this paper, claim 1 is amended to make it clear that the surface hardness is measured on a film roll which is rolled up on a cylindrical core. It is believed that amendment obviates the basis for the rejection. Withdrawn of the rejection is requested.

Claim Rejections under 35 USC §103

Claim 1-4 are rejected under 35 USC §103(a) as being unpatentable over Japanese Patent 10-138,405 (JP-405 hereinafter) in view of Isozaki (U.S. Patent No. 6,337,369).

As stated above, the surface hardness recited in claim 1 is measured on a roll of film wound on a cylindrical core. Winding tightness of the film is indicated by the surface hardness measured on the film roll. If the surface hardness is too low, the winding is too loose. Otherwise, it is too tight. By controlling the surface hardness, wrinkles and scratches in the film can be controlled. This is explained in the instant specification on page 7, lines 7-21.

As recited in claim 1, a roll of polyvinyl alcohol film is prepared by forming a polyvinyl alcohol film from a solution of a polyvinyl alcohol resin, and rolling up said film around a cylindrical core. The surface hardness of the roll of film is adjusted to a Shore A hardness of 60 to 95 measured according to JIS K 6301 under conditions of 25°C and 55% RH.

JP-405 discloses regulating the surface hardness of a laminate roll used in laminating a cellulose based film and a PVA based film for reducing creases, bulking and wrinkles of the laminated film. The laminate roll in JP-405 is a rubber roll that is used for pressing the film layers together for laminating, not a core that is used for rolling up a film. The surface hardness of the laminate roll is measured on the surface of the rubber roll, not on the laminated film.

Therefore, JP-405 is different from the instant application in that it regulates the surface hardness of a roll, not a roll of film. The roll is not used as a core for rolling up a film, but for laminating a film.

Isozaki only discloses how to make a PVA film. It does not disclose a step of rolling up the PVA film around a cylindrical core. Consequently, Isozaki does not teach or suggest the surface hardness of a rolled-up film on a core.

Therefore, none of the above references teach or suggest that the surface hardness of a rolled up PVA film on a cylindrical core should be adjusted to the range specified in claim 1.

Based on the foregoing, claim 1 is believed to be patentable over JP-405 in view of Isozaki. Applicant respectfully requests the rejections of claim 1 under 35 USC 103(a) be reconsidered and withdrawn.

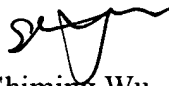
Claims 2-4 depend from claim 1. Since claim 1 is believed to be patentable, claims 2-4 are also believed to be patentable. Applicant respectfully requests the rejections of claims 2-4 be reconsidered and withdrawn.

Conclusion

For all the foregoing reasons, it is believed that all the remaining claims of the instant application are patentable, and their passage to issue is earnestly solicited. Applicant's agent urges the Examiner to call to discuss the present response if anything in the present response is unclear or unpersuasive.

Dated: July 11, 2006

Respectfully submitted,



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